

Great Britain -  
Parliament.  
1707 L. (II)

1. **W**E conceive such an Order, as is propos'd in the Question, to be absolutely necessary, because we are fully convinc'd that the Duke of *Ormond* does lie under some Order of Restraint from acting offensively, not only from the Accounts which are publick both here and in *Holland*, of his declaring it to Prince *Eugene* and to the Deputies of the States at their late Consultation, when both Prince *Eugene* and those Deputies earnestly press'd him to join in attacking the *French* Army, which was then known to be much inferior to that of the Allies both in the Number and Condition of the Troops; but also, for that nothing of this whole Matter was deny'd by those Lords who have the Means of knowing these Facts, as undoubtedly wou'd have been without scruple, had not the said Facts been true; since no Scruple was made of acquainting the House with a subsequent Order very lately sent to the Duke of *Ormond*, allowing him to join in a Siege: which is a further Evidence that he had before some Order of Restraint, for otherwise this last Order would be unnecessary and absurd; it being a general, constant, and standing Instruction to every Commander in Chief by Land or Sea, to do his utmost Endeavour to annoy the Enemy. And it is manifest by this last Order, that even in the Opinion of the Ministers it was expedient to take off this Restraint to some degree; and the leaving the Duke of *Ormond* still under a Restraint from giving Battel to the *French*, seems most unaccountable, and inconsistent with the Liberty indulg'd to him of joining in a Siege, and renders it altogether useless: For no Place, when taken, can be of such advantage to the Allies as *Cambray*, which opens a free Passage for our Army into the Heart of *France*; and 'tis impossible to besiege that Place without dislodging the *French* from their Incampment; and this also is impossible if the *French* will keep their Ground. Other Attempts seem to be of little use, but may serve to give the *French* Time, which they do not want Skill to improve.

2. We conceive it to be derogatory to Her Majesty's Honour, to Publick Faith, and that Justice which is due to Her Majesty's



Majesty's Allies; and that 'tis a sort of imposing upon our Allies a Cessation of Arms without their Consent, and in the most prejudicial manner, because they were not so much as acquainted with it, and so might have been led into great Difficulties; besides that it frustrates all essential Advantages against the common Enemy, which may be of fatal Consequence to this Nation and all *Europe*.

3. Because it was acknowledg'd that a General Peace was not concluded, as indeed it is very unlikely it should be, there having been no Answers in Writing given by the *French* to the specifick Demands of the Allies, tho the same were deliver'd to the *French* three months ago; and it was further declar'd, that there was no separate Peace, nay that such a Peace would be foolish, knavish and villainous: and therefore while we are in War, and having no Security of a Peace, we conceive that such an Order of Restraint is a plain neglect of all those happy Opportunitys which Providence might, and lately did, put into our hands of subduing our Enemy, and forcing him to a just and honourable Peace. And surely it is imprudent and dangerous to rely on the Promises of *France*, which are so far from being any Security, that even a Peace would not be safe, in our Opinion, unless it be such as gives so full Satisfaction to the Allies, that they shall be willing to join with us in a mutual Guaranty of it.

4. Her Majesty having with great Wisdom declar'd to this Parliament, that the best means of obtaining a good Peace, is to make early Preparations for War, and a vigorous Prosecution of it; and since the Parliament has with great Duty and Deference to her Majesty, and a just Zeal for the Interests of their Country, and of *Europe*, given very great Supplies for that purpose, we conceive that such an Order of Restraint, being very different from that Declaration of her Majesty, must be the Effect of very ill Advice; by which the Parliament's good Intentions will be defeated, and all those heavy Loads of Taxes, which they have for so good Purposes cheerfully given, render'd fruitless and unnecessary, and may, in conclusion, after having thus trifled away our Wealth and Time, bring us into the necessity of accepting such a Peace, as it shall please an insolent and domineering Enemy to give us.

